#### **Land Capability Classification**

The land capability classification system is used to show, in a general way, the suitability of soils for cropland. It is a three-category interpretative system. The two highest categories, class and subclass, give broad perspective of the suitability of map units for certain crops or pasture. These categories indicate the degree and kinds of limitations for these uses. The system evaluates soils for mechanized farming systems that produce the more common cultivated field crops, such as corn, small grains, cotton, hay, and field grown vegetables.

#### **Capability Class**

The highest category of the system is the capability class. The capability classes are groups of soils that have the same general suitability for the broad kinds of use common on farms and ranches. There are eight classes designated by Roman numerals I through VIII.

Classes I, II, III, and IV are suitable for mechanized production of common field crops if properly managed, and for production of pasture and woodland. The degree of limitation for production of cultivated crops increases progressively for class I to class IV. Limitations may affect production as well as the risk of permanent soil deterioration, as by erosion.

Classes V, VI, and VII are generally not suited to mechanized production of common field crops without special management, but are suitable for permanent cover such as grasses and trees. The severity of the soil limitations for crops increases from class V to class VII. Areas in class VIII are generally not suitable for crops, pasture, or wood products without management that is impractical. Class VIII areas may have potential for other uses, such as recreation or wildlife habitat.

#### Capability Subclass

The subclass identifies the dominant kind of limitation in the class. They are designated by adding a small letter, e, w, s, or c, to the class numeral, for example, IIe. The letter e shows that the main limitation is risk of erosion unless a close-growing plant cover is maintained: w shows that water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation (in some soils the wetness can be partly corrected by artificial drainage); s shows that the soil is limited mainly because it is shallow, droughty, or stony; and c, used in only some parts of the United States, shows that the chief limitation is climate that is very cold or very dry.

There are no subclasses in class I because the soils of this class have few limitations. The soils in class V are subject to little or no erosion, but they have other limitations that restrict their use mainly to pasture, woodland, wildlife habitat, or recreation. Class V contains only the subclasses indicated by w, s, or c.

#### Capability Unit

The lowest category of the capability system is the capability unit. Capability units are soil groups within a subclass. The soils in a capability unit are enough alike to be suited to the same crops and pasture plants, to require similar management, and to have similar productivity. Units are designated by Arabic numerals, for example IIe-2. This category is not used in all soil surveys.

#### **Crop Yield Estimates**

The average yields per acre that can be expected of the principal crops under a high level of management are presented in the following table. In any given year, yields may be higher or lower than those indicated in the table because of variations in rainfall and other climatic factors. The yields are based mainly on the experience and records of farmers, conservationists, and extension agents. Available yield data from nearby counties and results of field trials and demonstrations are also considered.

The management needed to obtain the indicated yields of the various crops depends on the kind of soil and the crop. Management can include drainage, erosion control, and protection from flooding; the proper planting and seeding rates; suitable high-yielding crop varieties; appropriate and timely tillage; control of weeds, plant diseases, and harmful insects; favorable soil reaction and optimum levels of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and trace elements for each crop; effective use of crop residue, barnyard manure, or green manure crops; and harvesting that insures the smallest possible loss.

The estimated yields reflect the productive capacity of each soil for each of the principal crops. Yields are likely to increase as new production technology is developed. The productivity of a given soil compared with that of other soils, however, is not likely to change. Absence of a yield indicates that the soil is not suited to the crop or the crop is generally not grown on the soil.

Hancock County Area, Maine

Yields are those that can be expected under a high level of management. They are for nonirrigated areas. Absence of a yield indicates that the soil is not suited to the crop or the crop generally is not grown on the soil.

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
AdB: Adams	3s	1000.00	2.50	4.00	4.50
AdC: Adams	4e	1000.00	2.50	4.00	4.50
Bd: Biddeford	5w				
BfB: Brayton	4w				3.40
BgB: Brayton	7s				2.70
BhB: Brayton	8s				
BSB: Brayton	7s				
Colonel	6s				
BTB: Brayton	8s				
Colonel	8s				
BwC: Buxton	3e		4.50	3.50	6.50
BwD: Buxton	4e		4.00	3.00	5.50
Ch: Charles	4w		3.00	2.50	4.80
CoB: Colton	3s	1000.00	2.00	2.00	5.00
CoC: Colton	4e	1000.00	2.00	2.00	5.00
CoE: Colton	7e	800.00			
CRE: Colton	7e				
Adams	7e				
CSC:					

Hancock County Area, Maine

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
CSC: Colton	3s				
Adams	3s			4.00	4.50
Sheepscot	2e		4.00	3.40	6.50
DaB: Dixfield	2w	2000.00	4.00	4.00	8.00
DaC: Dixfield	3e		4.00	4.00	8.00
DbC: Dixfield	6s				
DsB: Dixfield	2w	2000.00	4.00	4.00	8.00
Colonel	3w	1000.00	3.00	3.00	5.50
DtB: Dixfield	6s	2000.00			
Colonel	6s	1000.00			
DWB: Dixfield	6s				
Colonel	6s				
Tunbridge	6s				3.10
Go: Gouldsboro	8w				
Gt: Gouldsboro	8w				
Beaches	8w				
HcC: Hermon	6s				
Colton	4e			2.00	5.00
Rock Outcrop	8s				
HmB: Hermon	<b>2</b> s	1500.00	3.00	3.00	5.70
Monadnock	2e	1500.00	3.50	4.00	6.60
⊔mC·					

HmC:

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
HmC: Hermon	3e	1500.00	3.00	3.00	5.70
Monadnock	3e	1500.00	3.00	3.50	5.70
HtB: Hermon	6s	1500.00			
Monadnock	6s	1500.00			
HtC: Hermon	6s	1500.00			
Monadnock	6s	1500.00			
HtE: Hermon	7s	1200.00			
Monadnock	7s	1200.00			
HVC: Hermon	6s				
Monadnock	6s				
Dixfield	6s				
HVE: Hermon	7s				
Monadnock	7s				
Dixfield	6s				
Kn: Kinsman	4w				4.50
KW: Kinsman	4w				
Wonsqueak	7w				
LaB: Lamoine	3w		4.00	3.50	6.50
LbB: Lamoine	3w		4.00	3.50	6.50
Scantic	4w		3.00		5.00
LCB: Lamoine	3w				
Scantic	4w				

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
LCB: Buxton	3e		4.50	3.50	6.50
LgB: Lyman	6s	800.00			
Brayton	7s				
LHC: Lyman	6s				
Brayton	7s				
Schoodic	7s				
LsE: Lyman	7s	500.00			
Schoodic	7s				
LTE: Lyman	7s				
Schoodic	7s				
Rock Outcrop	8s				
LuC: Lyman	6s	800.00			
Tunbridge	6s	1200.00			
LWC: Lyman	6s				
Tunbridge	6s				
Schoodic	7s				
MaC: Marlow	3e	2000.00	4.00	4.00	7.80
MaD: Marlow	4e	1800.00	3.50	3.50	6.80
MbC: Marlow	6s	2000.00			
MbE: Marlow	7s	1800.00			
McC: Marlow	7s	1800.00			
McE:					

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
McE: Marlow	7s	1800.00			
MDC: Marlow	6s				
Dixfield	6s				
MDE: Marlow	7s		<del></del>		
Dixfield	6s				
MGC: Marlow	7s				
Dixfield	7s				
MGE: Marlow	7s		<del></del>		
Dixfield	7s				
MhC: Monadnock	7s	1200.00			
Hermon	7s	1200.00			
MhE: Monadnock	7s	1200.00	<del></del>		
Hermon	7s	1200.00			
MXC: Monadnock	7s				
Hermon	7s				
Dixfield	7s				
MXE: Monadnock	7s				
Hermon	7s				
Dixfield	7s				
NaB: Naskeag	7s	<del></del>	<del></del>		
Schoodic	7s				
NBB: Naskeag	7s				

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
NBB: Schoodic	7s				
Lyman	6s				
NcB: Nicholville	2e	2000.00	3.50	4.00	7.50
NcC: Nicholville	3e	2000.00	3.50	4.00	6.50
Ps: Pits	8s				
Sa: Scantic	4w		3.00		5.00
SB: Scantic	4w				
Biddeford	5w				
SdB: Scantic	7s				
Lamoine	6s				
SEB: Scantic	7s				
Lamoine	6s				
Dixfield	6s				
SfC: Schoodic	7s			<del></del>	
Rock Outcrop	8s				
SfE: Schoodic	<b>7</b> s				
Rock Outcrop	8s				
SGE: Schoodic	7s				
Rock Outcrop	8s				
Lyman	7s				
SKC: Schoodic	<b>7</b> s				

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
SKC: Rock Outcrop	8s				
Naskeag	<b>7</b> s				
SmB: Sheepscot	2e	1000.00	4.00	3.40	6.50
SoB: Sheepscot	6s	1000.00			
SoC: Sheepscot	6s	1000.00			
SrB: Sheepscot	2e	1000.00	4.00	3.40	6.50
Rock Outcrop	8s				
ThC: Thorndike	6s				
Winnecook	6s				
TuB: Tunbridge	2e	1200.00	3.50	3.50	5.60
Lyman	3e	800.00	2.00	2.50	6.10
TuC: Tunbridge	3e	1200.00	3.50	3.50	6.10
Lyman	4e	800.00	2.00	2.50	5.70
TWC: Tunbridge	3e				
Lyman	4e				
Marlow	3e		4.00	4.00	
Ud: Udorthents					
Urban Land	8s				
WA: Waskish	8w				
Sebago	8w				

Map Symbol and Soil Name	Land Capability	Blueberries	Grass Hay	Grass-Legume Hay	Pasture
)M/I O		Lbs	Tons	Tons	AUM
WkC: Winnecook	2e		3.00	3.50	6.00
Thorndike	2s			3.00	5.70
Wo: Wonsqueak	7w				
Ws: Wonsqueak	7w				
Bucksport	7w				
WT: Wonsqueak	7w				
Bucksport	7w				
Sebago	8w				